

Inquiry into the Impact of Animal Rights Activism on Victorian Agriculture 20 July 2019. Katrina Love

Activists/undercover investigators aren't risking their liberty, finances, and often their lives, over one or two or even a dozen instances of unconscionable and egregious cruelty and abuse exposed on "farm" (that is, in production facilities), in slaughter facilities and during the transport from the first to the second. The evidence we are seeing (or have seen for years now) coming out of these facilities shows not only routine illegal behaviour and practices by staff and owners, but standard industry practice that the public would be outraged by:

Hens kept in battery cages - often three or four in the space equivalent to a large cat carrier;

Pigs kept in farrowing and gestation crates - about enough room for one or two steps forward and backwards;

Ducks (aquatic fowl) raised without access to water for swimming and bathing;

Male chicks macerated alive or gassed (can take up to three minutes to die) in their first day of life in the egg industry;

Chickens sent to slaughter routinely miss the stun bath before throat cut, and often then miss the blade for the throat cut, and go into the scalding tank to de-feather, fully conscious.

Surgical mutilations without anaesthetic or pain relief are standard, legal industry practice, including:

ear notching (pigs, sheep, cattle);

ear tagging (pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, alpacas);

hot iron branding (cattle, horses (most horses are now freeze branded));

surgical castration (pigs);

flank spaying (cows);

banding castration (sheep, cattle, goats);

de-beaking (chickens, turkeys);

de-toeing (turkeys, emus);

mulesing (lambs);

disbudding (calves, kids);

de-horning (cattle);

teeth cutting (piglets);

tail docking (piglets, lambs).

The public might also not be aware that 13-15 million newborn lambs die from exposure every year - merely a factored-in wastage of the sheep (wool and meat) industry. I'm sure they're aware of how often "livestock" die from lack of feed and water during droughts, but do they are also routinely exposed to extremes of weather through lack of shade and shelter?

Punish the abuse, cruelty and neglect, not those who expose it, and let's see an inquiry *into* the abuse, cruelty and neglect, not those trying to expose and end it via non-violent direct action and peaceful occupation of the places where incomprehensible numbers of animals suffer on a daily basis.